

PETERSBURG.
DEATH OF A WORTHY MAN.—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PASTORAL CALLS—PROSPECTING FOR LANDS—BOAT-BUILDING—WILD GAME IN JAMES RIVER—SEVERE WIND-STORM—SERIOUS RUNAWAY ACCIDENT—THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

DECEMBER 11, 1878.
Intelligence was received last night of the death—somewhat sudden—of Mr. Henry Tillar, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Brunswick county, at his home, near Ryland's. He was apparently up to a day before his death, and was a man of about thirty-five years of age, and was well known and greatly respected in this city and throughout this section.

An order was sent North to-day for 1,000 feet of new hose of the most improved make for the use of the fire department. The hose now in use is of little value, having become almost valueless by long use. The fire committee are making efforts to gradually place the department on a footing equal in point of efficiency to that of any city of the size and population of Petersburg in the country.

It is stated that Rev. T. T. Eaton, pastor of the First Baptist church, will acquire his congregation on Sunday next as to his final intentions in respect to his call to the church in Nashville. The church here has been so long without a minister, that it is hoped that he will decide to remain in Petersburg, where he has accomplished so much in building it up.

The intimations are that Rev. S. K. Winn, of Culpeper, will accept the call to the pastoral charge of the Second Presbyterian church in this city, though he has not been definitely heard from on the subject.

A number of citizens of the North and West have recently visited our section, prospecting for lands, and some of them have made purchases of large tracts of land in the counties of the North and West, and are generally well pleased with our soil and climate that they will doubtless influence a considerable immigration to Southside Virginia during the coming year.

The James River, at City Point, is reported to be alive with feathered wild game. Hunters are enjoying fine sport, and trappers are catching large numbers of wild ducks, the most of which they ship to northern markets.

A severe wind-storm prevailed here all last night, following the rain of yesterday. Very little damage was done, however, other than the loosening of some of the timbers of the city.

The fifth of the seeds built for river improvement was launched from the wharf here this afternoon. It is intended for the James river, in North Carolina. The other four are in use in James river.

Loose tobacco is pouring into market very freely. The sales sometimes are so large that the buyers find it impossible to get through with more than a few hundred pounds in a day, though the auctioneer is ruled down generally to one minute in selling a parcel.

This afternoon, just as Mr. Reuben Andrews and his wife had taken their seats in a buggy for their ride to the country, a horse, driven by the driver, started and ran off. Mr. Andrews was frightened out, and was picked up in an insensible condition. His injuries are painful, and believed to be serious. The horse and buggy collided with a fence, and the driver was thrown. Mrs. Andrews stood upon the pavement. She was quite painfully but not seriously hurt. They were carried to their residence by friends and medical aid summoned. Mr. Andrews is the superintendent of the Petersburg Railroad Company's cars, and a citizen well respected.

At a meeting of the School Board held this afternoon Superintendent Hardaway submitted a report regarding the condition of the public schools for that portion of the session ending this week, when the schools close for one month. The total number of pupils reported as enrolled is 1,338, of which 566 are whites and 882 colored. The average monthly attendance is 1,630, of which 861 are whites and 769 colored. The average daily attendance is 1,547, of which 810 are whites and 737 colored. The cost of tuition per month per pupil in daily attendance is \$1.23. The amount left to the control of the schools after meeting the expenses of the present month is \$4,257.97. Number of teachers is 29. While the total enrollment for the present session is less than the enrollment for the past session by 237 pupils, the actual daily attendance has increased 120 pupils. At the request of the superintendent, the Board instructed him to visit Dr. Ruffner and state fully the present condition of the public schools of Petersburg, and ask his cooperation in securing some aid from the Peabody fund. Previous to the year 1873 the public schools here were aided to the amount of about \$15,000 from the Peabody fund, but since that time no assistance has been received from it.

ROBIN ADAMS.

FLUVANNA COUNTY.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

KENT'S STORE, December 9, 1878.
To-day has been very cold and threatening for rain or snow; in fact, for several days past the weather has been not unsuitable for this season.

Last Saturday evening as Miss Kitty Johnson, of the Green Springs, Louisa county, was returning from this place her horse took fright and she was thrown some distance, seriously injuring her right hip. None of the bones were broken, but there was severe contusion of the joint. She is at present doing as well as could be expected.

Mr. Edwin W. Mallory, recently removed from this place to Louisa, was paralyzed last Friday. It is thought that little hope is entertained of his recovery.

Rebecca and Amanda Johnson (both colored), who were indicted by the grand jury last court, have been sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary, one for three and the other for four years.

NOW AND THEN.

COVINGTON.

HIGH WATER IN JACKSON RIVER.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

DECEMBER 10, 1878.

The river (Jackson) is now very high, and the wet weather is general. Hard rain for twenty-four hours.

J. M. P.

Tobacco Interest in Caroline County.

At a public meeting of the citizens of Caroline county, Va., held at Bowling Green on the 9th of December, 1878 (court day), Mr. Littleton Flippo was called to the chair, and J. M. Hudgin appointed secretary.

Addresses were made by Messrs. T. N. Welch, William D. Quisenberry, and Robert O. Peatross against the sectional hardships of the present tobacco tax.

On motion of Mr. T. N. Welch the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved, That we, the people of the county of Caroline, residing in the tobacco-region of Virginia, and to which crop we look chiefly for our support and maintenance, our hands being peculiarly adapted for its growth, and our labor to its culture, feel aggrieved at, as we believe, the unjust tax imposed upon it by the Congress of the United States.

2. Resolved, That whilst we are willing to bear our just and fair proportion of all public burdens for the support of the Federal Government and the legislation of the public debt, yet we esteem this tax imposed upon tobacco as unjust and oppressive upon us, as local and discriminating to our great disadvantage.

3. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to our representative and senators in Congress, with a request that it be presented to Congress, and the law imposing the tax repealed.

Ordered, That the secretary of this meeting send a copy of these resolutions to the Richmond papers for publication.

J. M. HUDGIN, Secretary.

THE WORLD'S NEWS.

PROGRESS OF AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE.

DECEMBER 11, 1878.

DWELLING-HOUSE BURNED AT FREDERICKSBURG.

HIGH WATER IN THE RAPPAHANNOCK—A NORFOLK CONVICT RECAPTURED—SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE MONTECALM RAILROAD—A TRAIN IN THE RIVER NEAR WOODVILLE, N. H.—HEAVY FRESHET AT BATH, N. B.—BOSTON POLITICS—FRESHETS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—BRIDGES SWIFT AWAY—THE HOT SPRINGS COMMERCE INVESTIGATION—OTHER RAILROAD ACCIDENTS, &c.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, December 11.

By 11 o'clock to-day the Senate galleries open to the public were packed with persons anxious to hear what Blaine had to say in defence of the bloody shirt, and what Thurman and other Democratic leaders would say in reply. By 1 o'clock, the time fixed for Blaine to commence, the floor of the Senate was literally jammed with members of the House of Representatives and others, including Colonel Abe Thompson, of Hanover; Mr. Huntington, and ex-Artillery General Williams. The Maine Senator looked nervous as he rose, and his first remark was an index to the character of his speech, for in it he charged wholesale fraud and intimidation on the people of the South at the late election.

This made some excellent Democrats look woeful, and their temper did not improve as he went on to state how the newspapers had given accounts of the outrages, including murder, which had been perpetrated by white southerners to rob the negroes of their ballot. But when he proceeded to show how negro suffrage had added to the political power of the South, until to-day 60,000 white men in our section send a representative to Congress, while it takes 132,000 of the North to do so, smiles played upon the faces of those same Democrats, and they looked for all the world as if they wanted to say to Blaine, "You and your party did this to crush and ruin the South, and you have reaped the reward of your acts." He assumed that if left alone the negro would be bound to vote according to the dictates of Radical managers, and asserted that but for fraud and outrage the Democrats in sixty days would not be in the ascendancy in both branches of Congress.

There was a studied meanness in his assertion that a Confederate white rebel who fought to break up the Government has now twice the political power by reason of his vote that a northern veteran who fought for the Union has. He spoke for only thirty minutes, and received the usual applause at the close of his effort. Conkling sat near Blaine, and wrote all the time he was speaking. He seemed not to want to hear a word that was said.

MR. THURMAN'S SPEECH.

The reply of Mr. Thurman was sensible, temperate, and worthy of a statesman. When he alluded to the fact that Blaine's speech was intended to injure a helpless people the galleries rang with applause. He said intelligence will always control, and it is not to be expected that the educated white men of the South will not obtain control over the uneducated colored voters. Blaine himself controls many votes in Maine, and if he lived in the South he would have a long list of negroes at his back. Mr. Thurman offered an amendment to the resolution, providing for an investigation of the assessments of the Government officers by the Republicans for election purposes, and for the investigation of the acts of John Davenport & Co. in New York at the late election, and further, for looking into the alleged fraud and intimidation in Massachusetts and other northern States last fall.

MR. LAMAR'S REPLY.

Mr. Lamar could not resist the temptation of telling Blaine that New England has already an undue representation in the Senate for her population, and if his rule were to obtain she would suffer. He deplored the fact that instead of making the speech he did Blaine had not come forward with some great non-partisan scheme for benefiting the poor people of the South. His speech was eloquent, but did not produce the impression that Mr. Thurman's did.

WHAT IS THOUGHT OF THE DEBATE.

At half-past two the indication went over, and Blaine did not indicate what day he will again call it up.

TASKED A DISTINGUISHED WESTERN SENATOR

what he thought of the debate, and he said Blaine's speech was a complete water-haul—a little thirty-minutes' talk without sides or bottom. It will have no effect and add nothing to his reputation. Thurman's speech was just what was needed in tone, matter, and delivery, while Lamar's was an excellent effort. Senator Johnston regarded Blaine's effort as calculated to do no damage either to the South or the Democratic party. He eulogizes Mr. Thurman's speech very highly, and thought Mr. Lamar spoke well. I asked two leading Democratic and Republican correspondents what they thought of Blaine's speech, and both admitted that it disappointed them and had generally disappointed people of both parties.

THE TALK AT THE HOTELS TO-NIGHT IS ONE OF

disgust—that they expected so much of Blaine and got so little. The Republicans take it hard that he should have raised expectation so high and then only read a thirty-minutes' speech, while the Democrats stand disgusted that they have been expecting an attack with heavy artillery and been only fired upon with pocket-pistol shots of small bore.

THE UNFAIRNESS OF MR. WHEELER.

When Mr. Blaine was applauded the Vice-President said nothing, but when Mr. Thurman was applauded he threatened to clear the galleries, and Mr. Edmunds went to the front and patted him on the back. Mr. Thurman politely called attention to the unfairness of the Chair.

A LETTER FROM EX-SENATOR HUNTER.

Mr. Hunter has written a letter to a senator, strongly advocating the reduction of the tobacco tax. It was circulated to-day among northern senators, and your correspondent traced it to Senator Eaton, of Connecticut, this afternoon. It will have a marked influence among those for whom it is intended, because no southern statesman stands higher among senators than Mr. Hunter does. When in debate, they refer to his public acts; even Republicans speak of him in terms of compliment.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Senator Voorhees has information that there will be no opposition to him in the Democratic senatorial caucus, and his re-

election may therefore be regarded as certain.

Mr. Lamar says that while the Republican Administration professes to be hard money, all the Federal officers in Mississippi at the last election voted for the Greenback candidates.

THE INTER-STATE COMMERCE BILL.

Mr. Reagan got up the bill in the House to-day for regulating the commerce among the States, and made a strong speech in advocacy of it. During the debate he told Mr. Hewitt, of New York, that he did not expect a man who represented capital alone to vote on the side of the people. The bill finally passed—ayes, 139; noes, 101. It prohibits through lines of railroads between large cities when there is competition from local lines. For example, there are three lines between New York and Chicago, on one of which Pittsburgh is situated, and they have been charging less for freight from Chicago to New York than from Pittsburgh to New York. It prohibits pooling of freights by competing lines, and the issue of drawbacks and rebates. It also prohibits the charging of more for a short distance than for a longer distance on the same line.

BRIEF ITEMS.

The House considered the Geneva awards report until adjournment at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The House expects to take up the pension appropriation bill to-morrow. It appropriates \$20,616,000, which is over \$200,000 more than was appropriated last session.

Mr. Hewitt's committee on the labor troubles heard Isaac Cohen to-day.

Jerry Murphy is to be United States marshal for Alabama.

The committee is nearly through with the Conover case, and nothing material has yet been elicited to show that the Hot Springs clause of the sundry civil appropriation bill was stolen by anybody.

Secretary Evans and the Danish Minister were among those who heard the debate in the Senate to-day.

The Ways and Means Committee to-morrow will take up the sugar question. The New York importers and refiners do not like the changes recommended by Mr. Sherman.

The Executive Committee of the United States Board of Trade held a meeting here to-day.

After the pension bill is disposed of the Indian appropriation will be taken up. The committee is working very hard.

The Indian Joint Commission heard more testimony to-day why the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department should not be made.

George Terrell, Joseph H. Wilson, and Nelson Campbell have been appointed revenue storekeepers and gaugers for the Fifth district of North Carolina.

Forty-fifth Congress—Third Session.

WASHINGTON, December 11, 1878.

SENATE.

Mr. Windom, of Minnesota, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported, with amendments, the fortification appropriation bill. He said the committee had no objection to the bill as it stood, but he would call it up for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Blaine, of Maine, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported, without amendment, the House bill to correct the error in the enrollment of the sundry civil appropriation bill last session in regard to the Hot Springs reservation. He asked for the present consideration of the bill, but Mr. Edmunds objected, and it went over.

Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, introduced a bill, of which he gave notice yesterday, for the repeal of section 1,218 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which prohibits any person who has served under the Confederate Government from being appointed to a position in the army of the United States. Laid on the table for the present.

Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, introduced a bill to designate, classify, and fix the salary of persons in the railway mail service. Referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Routes.

Mr. Merrimon, of North Carolina, submitted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for a statement as to the arms and equipments issued for use by officers of the Treasury and Interior Departments, and the Department of Justice; where arms are now, and whether any of them have been sold. Agreed to.

At 1 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Hamlin, of Maine, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution submitted by Mr. Blaine on the first day of the session, in regard to the inquiry as to whether the recent elections, the constitutional rights of American citizens were violated, &c.

Mr. Blaine said the pending resolution directing the investigation in the alleged frauds and outrages in the recent elections was offered by the white man and not by the colored man. He said that the resolution was a two-fold purpose in view—first, to place on record in a definite and authentic form the frauds and outrages by which some of the recent elections were carried by the Democrats in the southern States; second, to find out whether any appropriation bill for the redemption of these crimes against the free ballot may be prevented. In South Carolina, he said, there appeared to have been no election at all—rather a series of skirmishes throughout the State—polling-places being regarded as the scene of the contest, and one party and held against the other. We know that one hundred and six congressional representatives were chosen in the States formerly slave-holding, and that the Democrats elected one hundred and two of them; that the entire political power was thus founded on numbers of colored people who had been seized and appropriated to strengthen the Democratic party. Mr. Blaine said the method of voting in the South was by the white man and not by the colored man. He said that the white man of the South do not hold this superior power by reason of law and justice, but in defiance thereof. The war was fought in vain, he said, unless equal rights for all classes be established in all parts of the Union.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Blaine's remarks, Mr. Thurman submitted an amendment to Mr. Blaine's resolution that the committee shall also inquire whether any appropriation bill for the redemption of these crimes against the free ballot may be prevented. He said that the committee shall also inquire whether any appropriation bill for the redemption of these crimes against the free ballot may be prevented.

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the southern States had violated the rights of American citizens, and then to find out what could be done with them. There were doubts as to the propriety of the resolution, inasmuch as no committee could in the time at hand investigate the elections in a satisfactory or just manner. He wondered why this resolution was introduced, unless it was to be made a string upon which to hang speeches; to arouse sectional hatred in one portion of the Union, and to excite the passions of the other portion. [Applause in the galleries.]

Here the Chair said that persons creating disturbances would be arrested, and Mr. Thurman, continuing, said he hoped that the Senate would not pass a resolution that would do anything but what the galleries expected. He said that he would not say anything but what the galleries expected. He said that he would not say anything but what the galleries expected.

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million. The men in this Government, not in this chamber. Gentlemen, correct me by saying in this chamber. No, sir, they have got the affirmative power of legislation this day. Six hundred and twenty-five men, people, and children in Maine are equal to five million in the State of New York. That is not all; but the gentleman has vouchsafed advice to southern men on this floor and outside, in all spirit of fairness and equity. I will speak to the New England people, and tell them that in my opinion the direct force they have got on earth is the representative or senator, whether from their own section or any other, that will kindle this fire whose embers will flame up and tell them the very foundation on which these proud and free Commonwealths are now rearing their aspiring heads. Sir, the Senator is fishing in troubled waters upon this subject, and when you come to compare questions of this kind you will find that changes of a more radical and fundamental nature will be necessary in order to adjust representation to numbers in this country."

At the conclusion of Mr. Lamar's brief remarks, Senator Edmunds made a few remarks, and there was some noisy interruption between himself and the Senator from Mississippi as to the interpretation of a portion of the latter's remarks, after which the resolution and amendment were laid aside, and the Senate resumed the consideration of the patent law.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The House, on motion of Mr. Patterson, of Colorado, took up the Senate bill providing for holding terms of circuit and district courts for the district of Colorado. It was passed after being somewhat amended.

The bill reported last year from the Committee on Commerce to regulate inter-state commerce was passed.

The discussion will commence to-morrow on the bill to provide for the further distribution of the money received under the Geneva award.

From Fredericksburg.

DWELLING BURNED—THE NARROW-GAUGE RAILROAD.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

FREDERICKSBURG, December 11.—Fredericksburg has been favored in the last twenty-four hours with light, fire, and flood.

To-night the residence of George W. Bray was totally consumed. The contents were saved.

The managers of the narrow-gauge road have pledged from citizens of Madison and Green counties to subscribe respectively fifty and thirty thousand dollars in bonds towards building the road to their Court-houses. This is an important line of communication between Fredericksburg and the fertile Piedmont region, and will advance the interests of both. Its western terminus is to be Harrisonburg.

The river is eight feet above ordinary level, but is now falling.

Stewart's Remains.

UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCH—THE DETECTIVES HOPE THEY HAVE FOUND A CLUE.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., December 11.—The detectives who have been in this vicinity for several days supposed to be searching for the remains of A. T. Stewart were discovered this morning in the barn of Mr. Beck, on Beck's island, where they had slept the previous night. They informed an agent that they followed a corpse here from New York, which proved not to be that of the great millionaire. They represented themselves as independent detectives, and said they were promised a large reward in the event they were successful. They first heard of the mysterious vessel mentioned in these dispatches yesterday, after their arrival here, from the negroes who discovered her, and they believed they had at last obtained a clue to the whereabouts of the lost remains. They left here this evening for New York to look for the vessel, and will return here in a few days to search for the hidden box supposed to contain the equivalent of forty thousand dollars.

Capture of an Escaped Convict.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, Va., December 11.—The city police have captured a negro named William Harris, an escaped penitentiary convict, and lodged him in the city jail.

Harris was sent to the penitentiary from the city of Richmond for stealing jewelry, and made his escape some time since.

Damages by Storm and Flood.

BATH, Me., December 11.—The heaviest freshet known here for years is now prevailing. The railroads are in a sorry state, and the roads are in a sorry state. The roads are in a sorry state.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., December 11.—The Susquehanna river at this point is twenty-two feet above low-water mark, and is still rising rapidly. The flats between here and Kingston are submerged, and dwellers on the flats have been compelled to abandon their homes.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Freshets are reported at various points throughout the State. At Elizabethtown many families have been obliged to leave their homes, and many cattle have been drowned and several bridges destroyed. The iron bridge and over sixty feet of the embankment just north of Port Henry, on the line of the New York and Canada railroad, have been washed away.

JOHNSTON, December 11.—A Pittsfield special says the bridge on the Boston and Albany railroad at Johnston was swept away by the storm. On the Housatonic railroad there is a washout at Cornwall. At Leominster great damage was done by the giving way of a dam. A large number of sheep are reported from various places in New Hampshire and Maine, in which the Grand Trunk and Boston, the Concord and Montreal, and the Maine Central railroads sustained heavy losses.

ROXBURY, December 11.—The "X" dam, most damaging freshet in Roxbury and Esopus creeks ever known. Five houses in Eddyville floated away. Two schooners, three sloops, McCausland's sectional docks, five barges, and a large number of small boats, laden with lumber, were washed away. The docks are submerged, and everything not secured has floated off. Some lives are supposed to be lost on the sunken boats, but nothing is certainly known.

The Dodson Trial at New Castle.

WIL